

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

SCS-03 SCCT-02 M-02 AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-08 NIC-01 OC-06

OPR-02 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-04 DRC-01 /171 W
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O 091100Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2880

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

USS PAUL IMMEDIATE

USS MULLINIX IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: LUANDA BACKGROUND NOTE: NATURE OF PRESENT URBAN VIOLENCE

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

ADDIS FOR RSS; CINCEUR AND CINCLANT FOR POLAD'S; NAIROBI FOR RCO,
PRETORIA FOR RSO

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY. URBAN VIOLENCE HERE IS RACIAL AND

INTRARACIAL (BLACKS AGAINST BLACKS), PLITICAL (ALL INTRA-RACIAL) AND PLAIN THIEVERY RESULTING PARTIALLY FROM RECENT AMNESTY OF COMMON CRIMINALS. FIRE IS MOST COMMON TACTIC, INDISCRIMINATE NIGHT SHOOTING AT BLACK DWELLINGS A CLOSE SECOND AND BLACK SNIPER FIRE A STILL DISTANT THIRD. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESENT PERIOD VIOLENCE IN LUANDA IS CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY IN BLACK GHETTOS ("MUCEQUES"). WHILE MUCEQUES ARE GENERALLY LOCATED ON EDGE OF EUROPEAN SECTIONS OF CITY, IN MOST CASES THEY IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO OR INTERSPERSED AMONG MIDDLE AND UPPER CLASS RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. OF LUANDA'S 600,000 POPULATION, MUCEQUES HOLD ONE-HALF. UNTIL VIOLENCE BEGAN JULY 11, THOUSANDS OF MERCHANTS (COMMERCIALES) LIVED IN MUCEQUES. MOST OF THEM HAVE BURNED OUT BY NOW.

3. SEVERAL TYPES OF INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN OCCURRING. ON MOST BASIC LEVEL IS PURE LOOTING, BY POOR PEOPLE TAKING OPPORTUNITY RIP-OFF THE LOCAL COMMERCIALE, WHOM THEY CORRECTLY FEEL HAS ALWAYS CHEATED THEM. THERE ARE ALSO SEVERAL HUNDRED PROFESSIONAL THIEVES AND CRIMINALS WHO WERE RELEASED BY THE GENERAL AMNESTY AFTER APRIL 25. MANY ALREADY HAVE BEEN RE-ARRESTED, CAUGHT ROBBING STORES IN MUCEQUES AND HOMES IN CITY, BUT THE REST REMAIN AT LARGE AND ARE CREDITED BY ARMY, POOR BLACKS, MPLA AND PRESS WITH BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF THIEVERY THAT HAS OCCURRED DURING DISTURBANCES.

4. RE POLITICALLY AND RACIALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE, THERE ARE SO MANY CROSS-CURRENTS THAT EVEN ARMY SELDOM ABLE SAY WHO CAUSED WHICH INCIDENT OR WHY. THERE IS BASIC HATRED OF WHITES, INFLAMED OF LATE BY RADIO BRAZZAVILLE (WIDELY LISTENED TO BY BLACKS) AND PAMPHLETS. THIS SHOWS IN SPORADIC SNIPER FIRE, MOLOTOV COCKTAILS THROWN AT PASSING CARS AND BLACKS BEATING BLACKS SEEN IN WHITE-DRIVEN TAXIS OR WITH WHITES IN MUCEQUES. EQUAL OR GREATER FACTOR IS ACTIONS BY WHITE MERCHANTS WHO HAVE BEEN BURNED OUT AND WISH RETALIATE, AS WELL AS WHITE EXTREMISTS WHO WANT TO KEEP MUCEQUES BOILING IN ORDER FORCE ARMY CAUSE BLOODBATH. "LITTLE MAN," BLACK AND WHITE, FEELS HE HAS BEEN GRIEVOUSLY WRONGED BY OTHER RACIAL

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GROUPS AND WANTS REVENGE.

5. ON MORE POLITICAL LEVEL, THERE ARE ATTEMPTS BY MPLA, AND FNLA, SEPARATELY, TO FIGHT ARMY AND BURN OUT WHITE MERCHANTS. BOTH GROUPS ALSO AGITATING AMONG BLACKS TO GAIN ADHERENTS AND PROJECT BEST POSSIBLE MILITARY IMAGE. HOWEVER, BASIC ANIMOSITY BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA AT LEAST AS GREAT AS HATRED FOR PORTUGUESE, AND MUCH VIOLENCE OF LAST FOUR

NIGHTS IS ASCRIBED, BY BLACKS AND ARMY AS WELL AS MPLA AND FNLA PROPAGANDA, TO THIS OLD AND BITTER FEUD.

6. A RECENT ADDITION TO THE CAULDRON HAS BEEN EMERGENCE OF UNITA SUPPORT IN LUANDA. SO FAR THIS PRIMARILY WHITE-LED CHRISTIAN (SIC)-DEMOCRATIC PARTY OPERATION THAT USED MOTORCADES AND HUNDREDS OF CARS, TRUCKS AND MOTORCYCLES TO MAKE THEIR POWER KNOWN AND TO FORCE CITY TO PARTIALLY SHUT DOWN AUG 6. IT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THIS GROUP FORMING A MILITARY ORGANIZATION, FACT PRIVATELY CONFIRMED TO US BY PARTY LEADER.

7. PRIMARY METHOD OF WARFARE IN MUCEQUES HAS BEEN FIRE. BLACKS BURNED OUT MERCHANTS WHO IN TURN ARE BURNING BLACK HOMES AND OCCASIONALLY TOSSING HAND GRENADES IN YARDS OF BLACKS. AFTER FIRES THE LOOTING AND THIEVING START. SUPERIMPOSED ON THIS IS URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA GROUPS VS THE ARMY AND MPLA VS FNLA. ONLY FACTOR KEEPING FIGHTING FROM BEING WORSE THAN IT HAS BEEN IS LACK OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION ON PART OF MPLA AND FNLA. THEIR TACTIC OF CHOICE IS THEREFORE FURTIVE SHOTS AT ARMY PATROLS, WHICH CAUSE VERY SCARED SOLDIERS TO FIRE A FEW BURSTS INTO HOUSES, KILLING MORE BLACKS. SHOOTING HAS GONE ON ALL NIGHT IN MOST MUCEQUES AND, DUE THEIR PROXIMITY "EUROPEAN" NEIGHBORHOODS, MOST OF CITY HAS BEEN ON EDGE ALL WEEK. (CONGEN OFFICER WATCHED TWO BURSTS OF TRACER FIRE GO BY HIS BEDROOM WINDOW ON NIGHT AUG 6.)

8. ARMY IS PUTTING ALL LUANDA-BASED MANPOWER (APPROX 8,000 MEN) INTO PATROLLING MUCEQUES. ARMY ADMITS THAT NARROW, TWISTING STREETS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM PROVIDE REAL SECURITY OR TO CATCH THIEVES OR SNIPERS. THEY HAVE FACED SEVERAL INSTANCES OF BLACKS BARRICADING MUCEQUES TO KEEP ARMY (AND WHITES) OUT AND RAISING MPLA FLAG OVER "LIBERATED" ZONE.
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TWICE THEY FORCED SHOOT THEIR WAY IN ORDER RE-ESTABLISH CONTROL. AT PRESENT THERE S NO PLACE ARMY CANNOT GO IT IT SENDS ENOUGH TROOPS.
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